(a) whether Government have decided to go in for upgradation of its MIG-21 BIS-Fishbed-N Fleet;

(b) if so, when was the decision taken and what are the details of the proposals;

(c) what progress has since been made in this regard;

(d) what are the details of bids, the names of countries, companies from where the bids have been received with the financial implications of each bid; and

(e) what is the latest position about the finalisation of the bids and taking up of the upgradation job?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) The government propose to upgrade MIG-21 BIS aircraft, for which Intention To Proceed' (ITP) has been issued to the Russian Mikoyan Design Bureau in March 94. Detailed discussions have been held with the concerned Russian agencies and known Western vendors of systems required for the upgrade. The upgradation package would consist of integration of indigenous, Russian and Western weapons/avionics. Requestes inviting proposals for supply of Western systems required for the upgrade have been issued to the vendors. Concerned Russian agencies are presently in the process of firming up the upgrade package, including systems being supplied by them, for which extensive discussions have been held with them by IAF. Design and development phase of the upgradation is planned to be undertaken in Russia. Productionisation of the upgraded version will be done by HAL.

Grenades supplied by Ordnance Factory, Kirkee

3135. SHRI VIREN J SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number and the cost of the grenades held by the Army at present which were supplied by the Ordnance Factory, Kirkee;

(b) when were these grenades supplied by the Ordnance Factory to the Amry;

(c) how many of these grenades are lying ineffective and since when and what are the reasons therefor;

(d) what is the cost of the ineffective grenades;

(e) what steps have so far been taken to make these grenades effective; and

(f) how Government propose to dispose of the ineffective grenades?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (f) Army is holding 28.83 lakhs grenades at a total cost of Rs. 83.39 crores, supplied over a period of time by Ordnance Factories. Out of this quantity, 17.86 lakh grenades costing Rs. 51.42 crores are held without igniter sets due to downgradation of the earlier version of igniter sets. Efforts are being made to increase production of metallic igniter for use with the grenades. The entire quantity of grenades available with the Army is serviceable and hence is not required to be disposed of.

Failure of Operation Rakshak

3136. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the operation Rakshak launched by the Army in border areas to contain the Low Intensity Confilict (LIC) perpetuated by Pakistan has apparently not yielded the desired results;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what are the problems being faced by the Army in their operation particularly to check the infiltration of the Sudanes and Afghani mercenaries through Afghanistan, operating in the valley and making increased use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs); and

(d) what steps are proposed to be taken to make the Operation Rakshak more effective and ensure that it fulfils the functions underlaying its logistics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI